

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement in response to U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's introduction of the Senate companion bill to House legislation he authored entitled H.R. 4003 -- the Hudson River Valley Special Resource Study Act. The bill would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a study to determine if the Hudson River Valley should become a unit of the National Park System.

"I thank Senator Gillibrand for introducing this important legislation to determine if the Hudson River Valley should become a part of the National Park System. She recognizes, as do I, that the vast economic and recreational potential of the region warrants the attention of the National Park Service.

"I authored the House version of this legislation, because the Hudson River Valley's vast historical and natural significance is worthy of the elevated national status and federal funding that would result were it to be designated as a unit of the National Park System. Such a designation would also attract visitors and businesses to the region, creating jobs and providing a needed economic stimulus.

"I am optimistic that the bill will pass in the House later this week, and thanks to Senator Gillibrand, I look forward to the Senate taking similar action in the near future so that this important legislation can move forward and be signed into law by the President."